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LETTER DATED 12 FEBRUARY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on 12 February 1996, concerning the latest Sudanese charade to appear to be cooperating with the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mulugeta ETEFFA
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Press statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on 12 February 1996

Those who have been following the Sudanese Government's acts since the involvement of the Sudan's security organs in the assassination attempt against President Mubarak was brought to the attention of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and later to the Security Council, would recall the series of diversionary tactics resorted to by the Sudanese Government to evade the issue, making it abundantly clear that the Sudan's objectives have never been to cooperate with OAU or the Council. The Sudanese aim has been to scuttle OAU's efforts by complaining about what they asserted were procedural flaws in the approach to the problem of the Central Organ for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution and to stop OAU's consideration of the assassination attempt by insisting that it did not have the mandate to do so.

The Sudan started to profess readiness to cooperate with OAU only when it became clear that the Security Council would be seized of the matter. The Sudanese authorities accordingly shifted gear and their whole attention focused on doing everything possible to stop the Council from considering the assassination attempt. After deliberately provoking a border incident, the Sudan started to talk about Ethiopian aggression and took this to the Council at the same time as the Council was preparing to adopt a resolution on Sudanese involvement in the assassination attempt. But all these were in vain and the Sudan could not stop the Council from adopting resolution 1044 (1996), calling on the Sudan to hand over to Ethiopia the three suspects sheltering in its territory and further calling on the Sudanese Government to desist from engaging in activities of assisting, supporting and facilitating terrorist activities and from giving shelter and sanctuary to terrorist elements.

Now the Sudan has come out with a new gimmick, this time through a ploy by its Attorney General who, in what can only be characterized as a joke, if not an affront to the Security Council, issued a statement calling on the three terrorists to report immediately to the nearest police station. Although no one can be hoodwinked by these latest Sudanese antics and the Sudan can fool only itself by this latest joke, this latest move by the Sudan cannot be dismissed lightly. Since the Sudan knows full well where the three terrorists are being sheltered and its security organs know where they are being kept (because they are being protected by its own security personnel), the call issued by its Attorney General is the latest confirmation that the Sudan is not about to comply with the request of the Council. Above and beyond its lack of sincerity, this call by the Sudan to the three suspects to report to police, six months after the Ethiopian request for their extradition, confirms without a shadow of a doubt that the Sudan will never ever cooperate with the Council.

It is the conviction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia that neither the Security Council nor OAU would be deceived by this call by the Attorney General of the Sudan. In fact, we have no doubt that the Council, OAU and the international community at large will view this latest Sudanese move as nothing else but a continuation of Sudanese

prevarication in an attempt to evade the demand of the Council that it knows it should, and can, meet. The Sudan does not need to issue a call to the suspects to report to its police authorities. Its security organs know where they are.